PATENT

Application # 10/016,019

Attorney Docket # 2001-0381 (1014-244)

AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for communicating information from a source to a destination, the source served by a first network and the destination served by a second network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at an interworking facility a first frame which includes a payload and a first destination address in a first format compatible with said first network, the first destination address established by the interworking facility by resolving destinations available to the source through the second network;

forming a second frame of a second format compatible with the second network, the second frame including the payload; and

mapping the first destination address to a second destination address specifying in the second format the address of the destination in the second network so that the second network, upon receipt of the second destination address, can route the second frame to the destination~~.~~,

wherein the interworking facility resolves destinations available to the source by the steps of:

receiving at the interworking facility an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) polling request generated by the source for the purpose of determining at least one destination available to the source;

matching an identification tag in the ARP polling request to a destination identifier identifies the destination through the second network;

encoding the ARP polling request into a format compatible with the second network for transmission to the destination along the identified path;

receiving at the interworking facility a destination-identifying address generated by the destination responsive to the encoded ARP polling request;

formatting the destination-identifying address at the interworking facility into a format compatible with the first network.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first frame has an Ethernet format and wherein the first destination address comprises a Virtual Local Area Network tag within the Ethernet-formatted first frame.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the second frame has an Asynchronous Transport (ATM) format and wherein the second destination address comprises an ATM Virtual Private Network (VPN) Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC).

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the second frame has an Asynchronous Transport (ATM) format and wherein the second destination address comprises an ATM Virtual Private Network (VPN) Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC).

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the mapping of the first destination address to the second destination address comprises the step of mapping the VLAN tag to the ATM VPN PVC.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the first frame has an Asynchronous Transport (ATM) format and wherein the first destination address comprises an ATM Virtual Private Network (VPN) Permanent Virtual Circuit (PVC).

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the second frame has an Ethernet format and wherein the second destination address comprises a Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tag within the Ethernet-formatted first frame.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7 wherein the mapping of the first destination address to the second destination address comprises the step of mapping the ATM VPN PVC to the VLAN tag.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the interworking facility resolves destinations available to the source by the steps of:~~

~~receiving at the interworking facility an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) polling request generated by the source for the purpose of determining at least one destination available to the source;~~

~~matching an identification tag in the ARP polling request to a destination identifier identifies the destination through the second network;~~

~~encoding the ARP polling request into a format compatible with the second network for transmission to the destination along the identified path;~~

~~receiving at the interworking facility a destination identifying address generated by the destination responsive to the encoded ARP polling request;~~

~~formatting the destination identifying address at the interworking facility into a format compatible with the first network; and~~ further comprising:

sending the formatted destination-identifying address to the source ~~so that the source may identify, and send information to the destination using the formatted destination identifying address such that the destination appears to the source as an endpoint in the first network~~.

10. - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method for enabling communication of information from a source served by a first network, to at least one destination served by a second network, comprising the steps of:

receiving at an interworking facility an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) polling request generated by the source for the purpose of determining at least one destination available to the source;

matching an identification tag in the ARP polling request to a path identifier that identifies a path to said one destination through the second network;

encoding the ARP polling request into a format compatible with the second network for transmission to the destination along the identified path;

receiving at the interworking facility a destination-identifying address generated by the destination responsive to the encoded ARP polling request;

formatting the destination-identifying address at the interworking facility into a format compatible with the first network; and

sending the formatted destination-identifying address to the source ~~so that the source may identify, and send information to the destination using the formatted destination-identifying address such that the destination appears to the source as an endpoint in the first network~~.

17. - 24. (Canceled)